

■■■■■■■■ New Year's blessings!



Our Lady of Grace has received a wonderful Christmas Gift. St. Alphonsus church sold and we have received one third of the money from the sale. I have been working with the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council and the School Board to create a plan for renewal for our parish and facilities. Once we have created a vision and plan we will share it with the community asking you for your opinion and input as we create a master plan for Our Lady of Grace. Once a master plan has been created then we can begin to implement the plan to renew our facility and community.

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

The feast is a celebration of Mary’s motherhood of Jesus. The title “Mother of God” is a western derivation from the Greek Theotokos, which means “God-bearer”. On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to be the dwelling place where His Son and His Spirit could dwell among men. Christ’s birth was made possible by Mary’s fiat, or sanctioning of God’s plan with her words, “Be it done to me according to thy word”. Calling Mary “Mother of God” is the highest honor we can give to her. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the “Prince of Peace”, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honors Mary as the “Queen of Peace”. New Year’s Day is also designated as the “World Day of Peace”, further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.

In the encyclical Marialis Cultus (1974) Pope Paul VI states: "This celebration, assigned to January 1 in conformity with the ancient liturgy of the city of Rome, is meant to commemorate the part played by Mary in this mystery of salvation. It is meant also to exalt the singular dignity which this mystery brings to the 'holy Mother . . . through whom we were found worthy . . . to receive the Author of life.' It is likewise a fitting occasion for renewed adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels, and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace. For this reason . . . we have instituted the World Day of Peace, an observance that is gaining increasing support and is already bringing forth fruits of peace in the hearts of many" (no. 5).

Adult ALPHA resumes in January

Invite your family and friends and bring them as we explore and dialogue on questions of faith. We gather for dinner at 6 pm followed by a video presentation and discussion. We conclude by 8pm.

Upcoming Questions:

- Why did Jesus Die? On January 12
- How can I have faith? On January 19
- How do I Pray? On January 26
- Why and how do I read the Bible? On February 2
- Come explore the Questions of life and faith!

Pray for the Franciscans on Retreat

The Friars will be on a community retreat January 2-6. Please pray for us!

Gospel for The EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (January 1st)

Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

Still pondering your resolutions for 2017 why not consider our Parish Mission Statement: *A community that endeavors to live our faith grounded in Jesus Christ. We celebrate Christ's presence in Word, Sacrament, and the shared experiences of our faith – community.*

1. St. Mary's Center (outreach to poor elderly)
2. Servicing meals to the elderly at Strobridge
3. Helping Hands (helping prepare receptions after funerals at OLG.)
4. Parish Maintenance & Gardening
5. St. Vincent DePaul Outreach (outreach to the poor)
6. **CYO Athletic Programs**
7. The Parish Festival
8. Working in the Religious Education Program
9. Working on the Confirmation team
10. Working with the RCIA team
11. Visit the Sick/Eucharistic Minister to the Sick and Homebound
12. Eucharistic Minister at Mass
13. Lector at Mass
14. Altar Society

SPEAKING OF NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS CONSIDER ALPHA FOR ADULTS

Join us for Alpha in 2017. We will ponder the Questions of Life and Faith. We will Adore, Worship and come into communion with the Lord! We will begin with a meal at 6:00pm--in Stack Center all are welcome.

UPCOMING TALK FOR ALPHA

- **Jan. 12:** *Why did Jesus die?*
- **Jan. 19:** *How can I have faith?*
- **Jan. 26:** *How do I pray?*
- **Feb. 2:** *Why do I read the Bible?*
- **Feb. 9:** *How does God guide us?*
- **Feb. 16:** *Who is the Holy Spirit?*
- **March 2:** *Why should I tell others?*
- **March 9:** *Does God Heal Today?*
- **March 16:** *What about the Church?*
- **March 23:** *Dinner and Prayer*
- **March 30:** *Reconciliation Service*

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, **January 2nd** and will re-open on Tuesday, **January 3rd**. Mass for Monday will be at 8:30am. The entire parish staff wishes all a safe and Happy New Year!

YOUR INVITED TO A TEACHING MASS

Start the New Year by learning more about the Mass. Why does the priest wear vestments? Why are all the reading done from the Ambo? Why does the priest wash his hands? Where does the Mass come from, and what is it really all about? Come join Fr. Paul and the Women's Evening Bible Study Group as he presides over a *Teaching Mass* on **Monday, January 30th, 2017** at 7PM in the church. We will learn the significance of the gestures the priest makes during consecration along with the actual words he uses. Understand and appreciate more of what we do every week during the Mass.

WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Evening Bible Study will begin "Mary - A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother" on Monday, **February 27th, 2017** at 7PM. This study will reveal Mary's unique role in God's kingdom and in our lives. You will experience the gospel through the eyes of Mary and get a vivid glimpse into her daily life. Seeing her in this way will lead you to a deeper relationship with the Blessed Mother and her son, Jesus. Cost of this 5-Session study is \$27. Please sign up with Jay in the Parish Office by Monday **February 6th** so that materials can be ordered.

2017 CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Catholic Extension 2017 Family Appointment Calendars are available. We are grateful and we extend our sincere appreciation to the Holy Angels Catholic Funeral, Cremation & Cemetery Services of the Diocese of Oakland for again sponsoring the 2017 calendars. If you have not picked up a copy in the church you may find one in the parish office. *Please only one per household.*

PLEASE NOTE

Due to the holiday schedule of our bulletin publisher we are not able to report the weekly offerings for the balance of December. The Sunday offering will be updated after the first of the year along with the Christmas Offering.



**GIRLS CYO BASKETBALL
SIGN UPS**

Girls Basketball (grades 2nd–8th) registration begins in January. Registration will open on line **January 9th**.

Go to our website www.olgcv.org and follow the link for CYO. All players who did not play Fall 2016 will need to create an account prior to completing their first registration with in the system. Fees for the 2017 program year will be \$175.00 with a \$50.00 uniform fee. Registration will end January 31st, practices begin the week of January 30th.

If you are interested in coaching or helping with CYO in another position please contact Colleen Lindberg at olgcv@sbcglobal.net

**OLG CYO
HELP WANTED**

The OLG CYO Board is looking for potential board members for the upcoming year. The last year we had a full and active board was 2006. Since that time several dedicated individuals, some without children in the program have continued to run this program that benefits children in our communities'. If you are interested and feel you could contribute to this very important parish ministry please contact Colleen Lindberg in the parish office.



**YEARLY CONTRIBUTION
STATEMENTS**

For your convenience in preparing your tax return, a contribution statement for 2016 will be prepared at your request. Please phone the Parish Office at 537-0806, with your name and envelope number. Your statement will be available for you to pick up once it has been signed.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Stewardship of treasure involves trust in God. You have to really believe in God's Providence and trust that if you give ten percent of your income to the Church and charity for example, God will help you live on the rest.

Offerings of December 18th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 10,427.00
Last Year this week	\$ 10,151.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 8,920.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$428,610.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$418,488.00

May God bless your continuing generosity.



Your Prayers Are Requested

Please lift up in your prayer those many among us who are ill and those who have asked for our prayerful remembrance:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Kathleen Andrews | Bridgett Foscalina |
| Rolando Barrios | Robert Gallicano |
| James Barthman | Nicholas Guinea |
| Peggy Burton | Pat Geiger |
| Leonardo Cabardo | Byron Griffith |
| Paris Dahle | Sheila Janes |
| Kathleen Denning | Elaine Jordan |
| Julie Dillon | Alice McLaughlin |
| Carol Dimaio | Richard Martin |
| Claudia Dobbs | Pat Silva |
| Estela Enriquez | Florence Sharp |
| Mary Franks | Iwan Tunggal |
| | James Van Wert |

As we pray for an end to war and violence in our world, let us remember in prayer those family members of our parish community serving on active duty, including:

DAVID SANCHEZ MICHAEL SANCHEZ

Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

**WINGS
WOMEN IN GOD'S SPIRIT**

WINGS is a faith enhancement group that encourages Spiritual growth through prayer, scripture study, catechesis, life sharing and community.

We meet at Transfiguration Church,
Marion Room

Next Meeting: **January 5th,**
9:15 to 11:15 am

Speaker: Aggie Burke

Topic: "Not Your Mother's Mary: The True Biblical Accounts of the Blessed Mother"

**FATIMA & LOURDES PILGRIMAGE
CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE APPARITIONS AT FATIMA!!**

Information and brochures for Fr. Tom's pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes are available in the parish office. The eleven day trip begins **October 3rd, 2017** and is only \$3,499 per person. The trip includes roundtrip air from San Francisco, first class/select hotels, most meals and services of a professional tour director. Space is limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

**A NOTE FROM
ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION**

Come join the ICF on the 6th day of Epiphany as we celebrate Christmas with dinner and gathering unwrapped gifts for newborns through Birth Right on January 12th, 2017. Since this is the same night as Alpha, please note that there is a time change for dinner, doors will open at 5:00pm and dinner will be served at 6:00pm. We are willing to share our dinner with Alpha attendees; reservations are required and the cost is \$17.00. Otherwise we will be providing Lisa's luscious soup for Alpha attendees. Reservations can be made by calling Stella Taddei at 510-581-5863; non Alpha attendees may call Juanita Madrid at 510-582-7242. Deadline for reservations is Sunday, January 8th, 2017. Grazie tante.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 1st:

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Monday, January 2nd:

Parish Offices Closed

Tuesday, January 3rd:

Bible Study:

9:30am--Parish Office

Religious Education Classes:

3:45pm--Stack Center

Baptismal Class:

7:00pm--Parish Office

Men's Bible Study:

7:00pm--Parish Office

RCIA Inquiry:

7:00pm--Stack Center Conference Room

Wednesday, January 4th:

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

7:00pm--Parish Office

Thursday, January 5th:

Serenity Group

8:00pm--Stack Center

Saturday, January 7th:

Adoration

8:30am--Church

Sunday, January 8th:

Coffee & Donuts After 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy

9:30am--Mass

Parish Registration

10:30am--Stack Center

Religious Education Classes

11:00am--Stack Center - English

11:30am--Stack Center - Bilingual

Youth Alpha Meal, Video and Discussion

6:00pm--Stack Center

**HAPPY NEW
YEAR!**

Mass Intentions for the Week

Please note:

All masses will be celebrated in the Church.

MONDAY, January 2nd

St.'s Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Dr.'s of the Church

8:30am Joe Ortiz (D)

TUESDAY, January 3rd

THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

7:00am Patrick Conroy (D)

WEDNESDAY, January 4th

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

8:15am Maurice Guerin (D)

THURSDAY, January 5th

St. John Neumann, Bishop

7:00am Helen Maes (D)

FRIDAY, January 6th

St. Andre Bessette, Religious

7:00am Jerry Bonora (D)

SATURDAY, January 7th

St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

8:30am Frances Heinemann (D)

SUNDAY, January 8th

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

11:30am Patricia McElroy (D)

1:30pm Herminia Duarte (D)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

January 2nd through January 8th

Monday: 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
 Tuesday: 1 John 2:29-3:6; John 1:29-34
 Wednesday: 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42
 Thursday: 1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51
 Friday: 1 John 5:5-13; Mark 1:7-11
 Saturday: 1 John 5:14-21; John 2:1-11
 Sunday: Isaiah 60:1-6;
 Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6;
 Matthew 2:1-12



FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND

In Memory of

The outdoor flower pots have been filled and maintained during the Christmas season in loving memory of Paul, Joan and Michael Frumkin. We are grateful to Cec Penland for the donation and continued commitment to this environment ministry.

Do you have some spare blossoms that you can share? Our Environment Committee needs your help to decorate the altar area each week, either by bringing in flowers from your yard or through a monetary donation towards the purchase of flowers. Flower donations envelopes can be found at the entrances of the church to make a donation in memory of a loved one. If you have any questions feel free to contact Jay at 537-0806. Your donation in honor of your loved one will be mentioned in the bulletin.



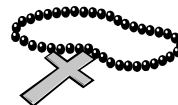
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT NEW SCHEDULE

Join us every Saturday for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8:30am Mass in the church.



RCIA INQUIRY

RCIA Inquiry Group meets Tuesdays at 7:00pm in Our Lady of Grace Room in Stack Center. You may join at any-time. This group is offered for those exploring membership in the Catholic Church. The next meeting will be **January 3rd**.



ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE

The rosary will be recited for World Peace after the 7:00 am Mass each Monday in the Church. Please join us.

THANK THEM WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Please support our advertisers who make our weekly bulletin possible and so generously support our parish. We are grateful to them !

This week we extend our gratitude to:

POSH BAGEL